

GHOST RIDER

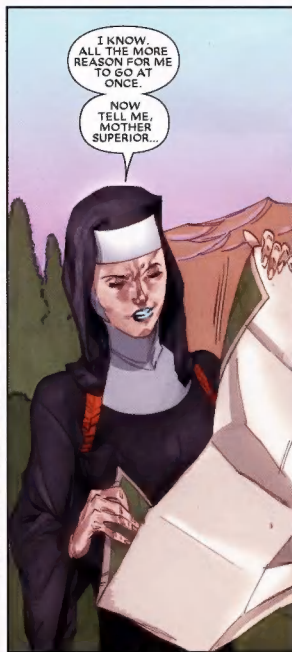
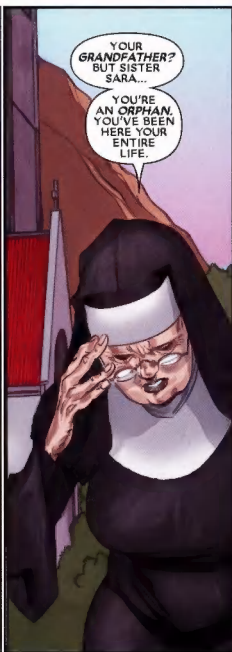
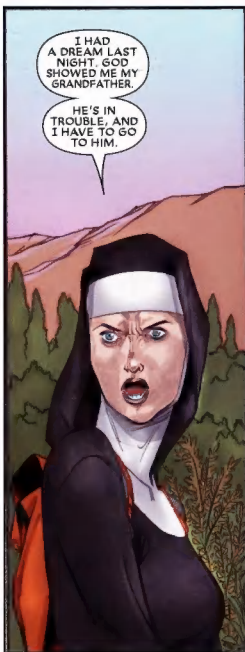
JOHNNY BLAZE IS CURSED, DOOMED TO LIVE LIFE AS THE GHOST RIDER, A BRUTAL SPIRIT THAT EXISTS ONLY TO METE OUT VENGEANCE AGAINST EVILDOERS. AFTER YEARS SPENT BEING A PAWN OF HELL, BLAZE HAS RECENTLY LEARNED THAT THE GHOST RIDER IS ACTUALLY A WEAPON OF HEAVEN, BONDED TO HIM BY THE RENEGADE ANGEL ZADKIEL. AT LONG LAST, BLAZE KNOWS EXACTLY WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR RUINING HIS LIFE. BUT THE ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW DOES HE GET REVENGE ON AN ANGEL?

RECENTLY BLAZE'S LONG LOST BROTHER AND FORMER GHOST RIDER DANNY KETCH RE-APPEARED, APPARENTLY IN THE SERVICE OF ZADKIEL. AS OF YET, HIS MOTIVATIONS REMAIN UNCLEAR.



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**KANSAS.
THE SACRED HEART
CONVENT FOR THE SISTERS
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER.
THREE DAYS AGO.**



"WHICH WAY IS
TENNESSEE?"

TENNESSEE.
THE GREAT SMOKY
MOUNTAINS.

Now.

YOU
SURE THIS
IS THE PLACE?
IT CERTAINLY
DON'T LOOK
LIKE MUCH.

THIS IS
THE PLACE. IT'S
NOT SUPPOSE TO LOOK
LIKE MUCH. DO YOU ALL
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
EXPECTED OF YOU
TODAY?

CHILL OUT,
KID. WE'VE
OBVIOUSLY DONE
THIS KINDA WORK
BEFORE. YOU'RE THE
ONE WE SHOULD BE
ASKING QUESTIONS
ABOUT.

I WOULDN'T
ADVISE YOU TO
ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT
ANYTHING. JUST DO
YOUR JOB. AND REMEMBER,
THE OLD MAN IS **NOT**
TO BE KILLED. IF HE
DIES, YOU DON'T
GET PAID.

IF IT'S JUST
SOME OLD MAN,
WHY'D YOU NEED
FOUR OF US FOR
THE JOB?

Rawf?

THAT'S A
QUESTION. I
JUST TOLD YOU
NOT TO ASK ANY
QUESTIONS...



JUST
SHUT THE
HELL UP AND DO
WHAT YOU'RE
TOLD.

REMEMBER,
YOU'RE WORKING
FOR ZADKIEL
NOW.

THE FORMER THINGS PART ONE

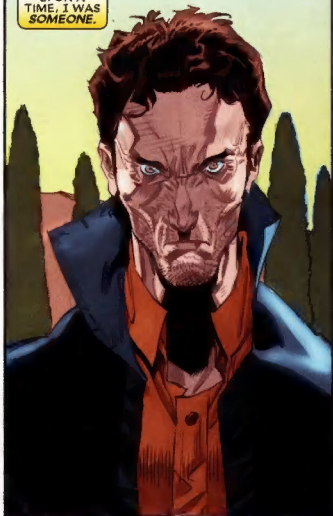
THE SECOND COMING OF DANIEL KETCH

JASON TAN ENG	JOSE	VC'S JOE	MARKO	DANIEL	AXEL	JOE	DAN
AARON HUAT	VILLARRUBIA	CARAMAGNA	DJURDJEVIC	KETCHUM	ALONSO	QUESADA	BUCKLEY
WRITER	ARTIST	COLOR ART	LETTERER	COVER ARTIST	EDITOR	EXEC. EDITOR	PUBLISHER



MY NAME
IS DANNY
KETCH.

AND ONCE
UPON A
TIME, I WAS
SOMEONE.



WHENEVER
INNOCENT BLOOD
WAS SPILLED, I WAS
THERE TO PUNISH
THE GUILTY.

I WAS
THE SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE.

THE
GHOST
RIDER.

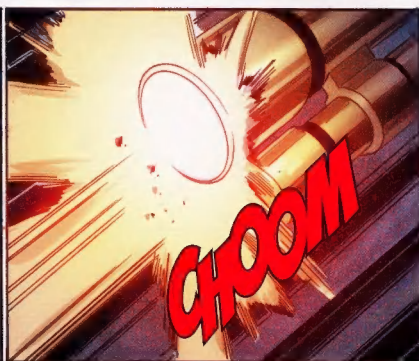
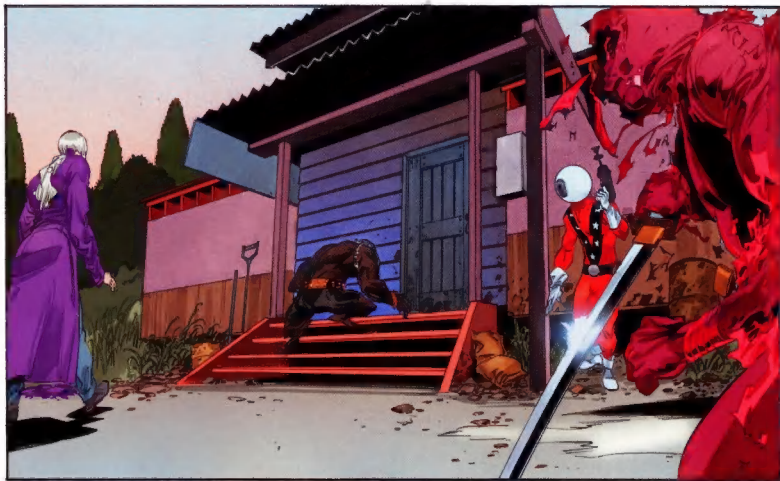
I WAS
A HERO.

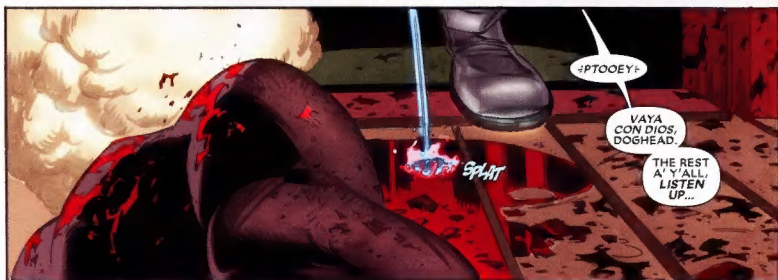


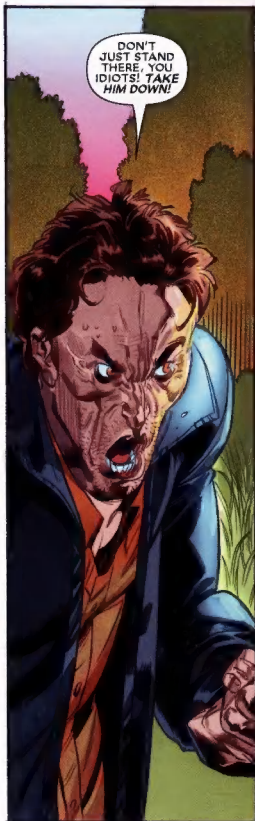
THESE DAYS, I'M
NOT EXACTLY
SURE JUST
WHAT I AM.

BUT I KNOW
IT'S SOMETHING
ELSE ENTIRELY.

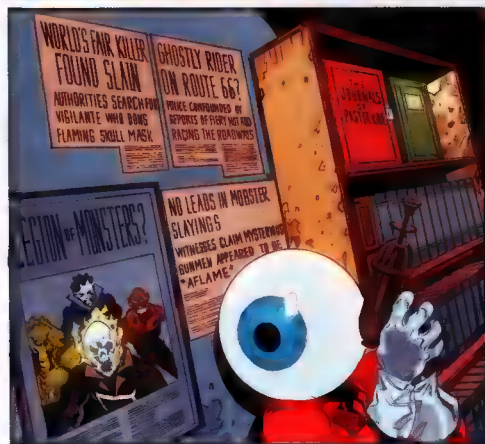


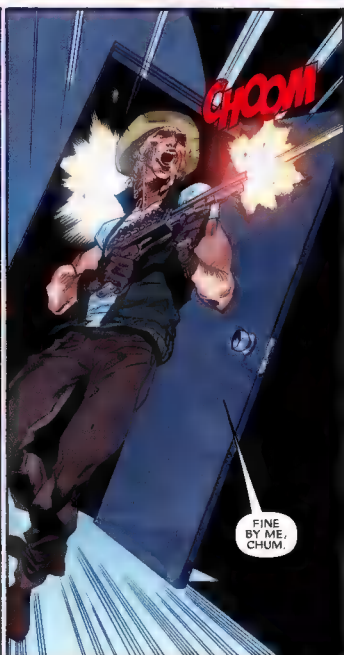






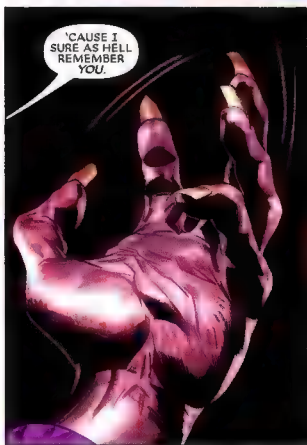














AH...
BLACKOUT,
RIGHT? YEAH,
I REMEMBER
YOUR UGLY
FACE.

WAY I
RECALL, YOU
DON'T HAVE THE
BALLS TO PUT
ME DOWN.



HA. WELL,
WE'LL JUST
SEE ABOUT
THAT NOW.
WON--

THUNK



WHAT
DID...

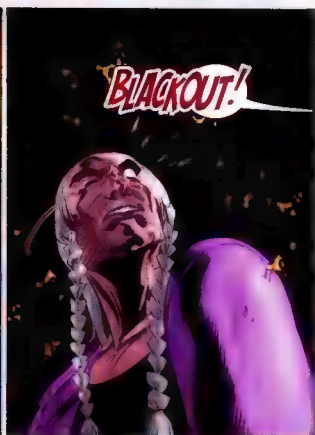
OH,
YOU'RE
GONNA PAY
FOR THAT



TOLD
YA. NO
BALLS.



YEAH?
WELL MAYBE
I'LL JUST BORROW
YOUR BALLS.



BLACKOUT!



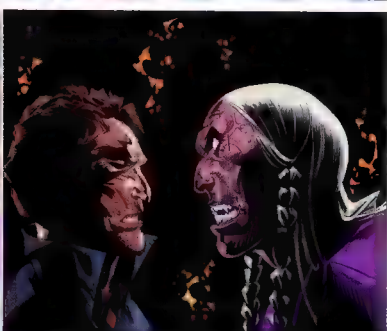
YOU
FORGETTING
THE DEAL,
BLACKOUT? I
TOLD YOU HE
WASN'T TO BE
KILLED.



THAT
WAS BEFORE
HE STABBED ME
IN THE CROTCH
WITH A
SWORD!

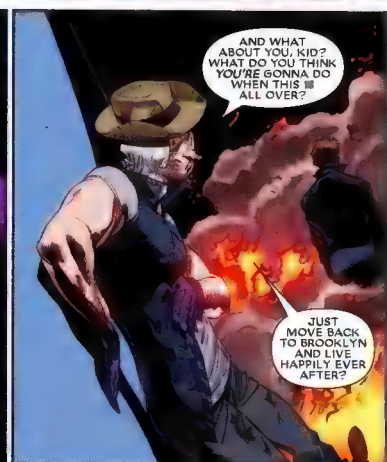


AND WHAT
DO YOU THINK
ZADKIEL WILL DO
TO YOU FOR
DISOBEYING HIS
ORDERS?



WHEN
THIS IS
OVER...

I'M GONNA
KILL EVERY LAST
ONE OF YOU
GHOST-RIDING
BASTARDS.



AND WHAT
ABOUT YOU, KID?
WHAT DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE GONNA DO
WHEN THIS IS
ALL OVER?

JUST
MOVE BACK
TO BROOKLYN
AND LIVE
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER?





BUT WHERE WERE YOU
WHEN I REALLY NEEDED
YOU? WHERE WERE YOU
WHEN I WAS
DESPERATE FOR
ANSWERS?

ALL THOSE
STORIES YOU
TOLD ME ABOUT THE
ORIGIN OF THE GHOST
RIDER POWERS, ABOUT MY
ANCESTRY, AND NEVER ONE
MENTION OF ZADKIEL
OR THE TRUE NATURE
OF THE SPIRITS OF
VENGEANCE.

WHY DID
YOU HIDE THE
TRUTH?!



YOU THINK
YOU UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING NOW,
DON'T YA, KID? BUT
REALLY, YOU'RE MORE
IGNORANT THAN
YOU EVER
WERE.

JUST 'CAUSE
I CALLED MYSELF
CARETAKER, THAT
DON'T MEAN I WAS
THERE TO LOOK AFTER
YOU. THE ONLY
THING I WAS EVER
PROTECTING WAS
THE TRUTH.

YOU WANNA
KNOW SOME OF
THAT TRUTH NOW,
BOY? YOU WANNA
KNOW THE BIG
SECRET?



TRUTH IS,
YOU WERE AN
ACCIDENT. YOU
WERE NEVER
SUPPOSED TO BE
THE GHOST
RIDER.

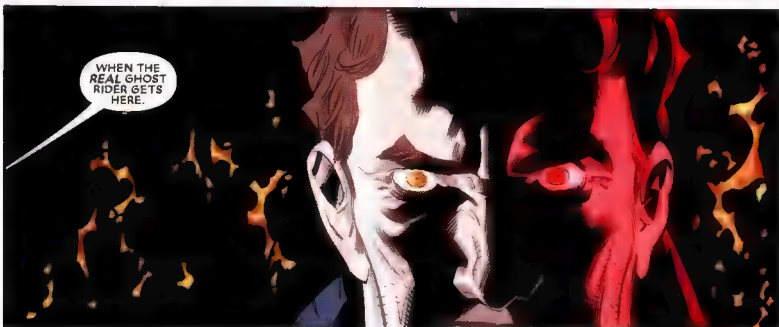
YOU WERE
NOTHING
BUT A BIG
MISTAKE.



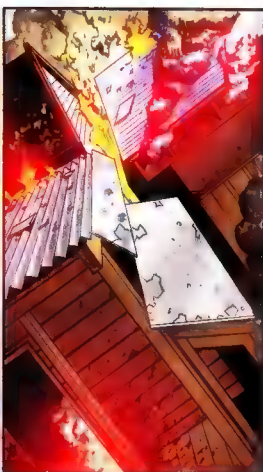
MORE
LIES!

NO, YOU
KNOW IT'S
TRUE.

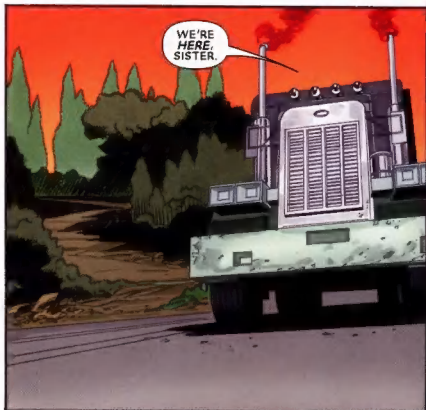
JUST LIKE
YOU KNOW
WHAT'S GONNA
HAPPEN TO
YOU...



WHEN THE
REAL GHOST
RIDER GETS
HERE.









HELP!
SOMEONE
HELP ME,
PLEASE
GOD!

SKKREEEEEE



OH
THANK
YOU! THANK
YOU FOR
STOPPING!

PLEASE,
HELP ME, I
NEED--

GET THE
HELL OUTTA
THE ROAD,
LADY.



I GOT
BUSINESS IN
THESE HILLS THAT
YOU DON'T WANT
NO PART OF.

NEXT ISSUE:
THE NUNCHUK NUN MEETS
THE BIKER FROM HELL IN:
**VAMPIRE TERROR
IN THE TENNESSEE HILLS!**

GHOST WRITERS

Wow, we sure got a lot of letters this month. People really seem to be coming around to this new style of GHOST RIDER story. Thanks to everybody for writing in. And without further ado...

What up Ghost Writers,

This is my first time ever writing to a letter page. I thought the letter page on Amazing Spidey was good, but, Aaron, your letter page is bad ass! And so is your writing. The reason I felt obligated to write to you guys is for the amazing art I just saw in issue #25. Simply put, it blew me away, that's the best Ghost Rider I have ever seen!

I haven't read any of ol' flamehead's books lately, but after I heard that Aaron was taking over I decided that I needed to check this book out. Ghost Rider has always been a walking bad ass, and to me it takes a bad ass writer to write him. Aaron you have taken him way beyond anything that I could have imagined. I bought issues 20-25 a few days ago and I fell in love with it. This is one of my favorite reads, it's so entertaining. I want more. Maybe we should get Ghost Rider three times a month instead of Spidey. All in all I love the new direction the art is going, the book looks amazing, the writing is superb, and I am completely happy to drop out about this series. Can't wait to see what's next!

Alex Kurpinski
Highland, MI

Thanks, Alex. No plans right now to have GHOST RIDER published three times a month, but how about two times a month? That's what you'll get starting in October, when the new GHOST RIDER: DANNY KETCH mini-series debuts, written by British bad ass Simon Spurrier and drawn by somebody who's rather familiar with ol' Flamehead, the great Javier Saltares. If you're wondering what Ketch has been up to these last few years, this new mini-series will provide all the answers.

I'm 11-year-old Cooper Zilkent from Denver. I go to a local comic store once in a while and have started to pick up old Ghost Rider books because I had seen the movie and it was awesome! (I know you get that reason a lot.) Then one day I decided to get one of the new Ghost Rider issues to check it out, and it just rocked! (referring to issue #24). Now I'm planning on spending three out of a five dollar weekly allowance to Flamehead!

Cooper Zilkent
Denver

Three dollars out of a five dollar allowance? Now that's devotion. You rock, Cooper. Welcome to the fold.

Hey Ghost Writers,

Ol' Flamehead has been through quite the ride since he got kick started back in April of '07. The stories have been great, and changing up the writers and artists every now and then seems to keep a fresh perspective on his vengeance rides. I've really enjoyed them, but I do have a 'bone to pick with you on this last iteration of GR. Listen, mess with the man's leathers, mess with the way the guy's bike looks, even change the way Blaze looks, but I'm sorry, Ghost Rider has to have a FLAMING SKULL! No skin, no nose, and no hairline. Just fire and bone! I do believe in artistic interpretation, but if the guy's head is on fire and I can still see eyes, nose and hair, he might as well be The Human Torch or some other guy on fire. The coolness, the aura, the embodiment of GR is a guy with a flaming skull riding a motorcycle. Please fix him.

'Nuff said

Vinny Russo
Chula Vista, CA

Hey, Vinny. I assume you're referring to how Blaze appeared in issue #24, the first part of our prison arc. You're right, we didn't see the full flaming skull in that issue. But if you'll go back and re-read, you'll see Blaze was doing everything he could to keep the Ghost Rider in check, to keep the Spirit of Vengeance from running rampant through the prison. So when Blaze accessed Flamehead's powers, he did so without fully transforming. That in and of itself shows how Blaze's control of the Ghost Rider continues to improve. Now more than ever before, Blaze is the one calling the shots in his relationship with GR.

Dear Ghost Writers,

I am yet another tale of a former Ghost Rider reader who put down the comic for a few years but has recently returned to the fold due to the outstanding new creative team. I felt overwhelmed in trying to pick a soundtrack for Ghost Rider (although I was convinced that the Murder City Devils' 'Bear Away' or 'Press Gang' would have made it on there for lyrical and heaviness reasons) but I think I can take a crack at a movie cast:

1. Johnny/Steve McQueen (he loved to race motorcycles and is a notorious anti-hero...and also dead -- a no brainer!)
2. Danny Ketch/James Dean (I know, maybe too obvious and/or scrawny and/or also dead...but bring him back to life and juice him up like he was Bonds or Clemens)
3. Satan/Ian McShane a la whiskey-drenched "Deadwood" (even though he also voice-acts cartoon characters, he is THE ultimate badass when he wants to be)
4. Roxanne/Michelle Monaghan (smokin' and talented in the wonderful Gone Baby Gone)
5. Wojciechowski/Iggy Pop (I know this would mean he's on both lists, but if anyone deserves to be it's him. Plus, looking at his constant shirts stature I'm positive he lives off of virgin blood -- just shave the top of his head and ta-da! -- he looks like an old leathery skinned cannibal -- Rock and Roll!)
6. Head Nurse/John Goodman (just THINK about it, he contrasts the other busty minions perfectly and could do it better than anybody)

I look forward to going to my favorite local comic shop and sweeping up the newest GR every time. Keep up the good work!

Very Truly Yours,
Sean D. Galloway
Lawrence, KS

Steve McQueen, Al Swearingen, John Goodman and a juiced up zombie James Dean...wow, those are truly inspired choices, Sean. Well done. And keep those contest entries coming, folks. Sean here has set the bar awfully high.

OK for the Ghost Rider movie I would go more non-mainstream. For Johnny Blaze himself I would look into Lorenzo Lamas. Remember the show "Renegade"? He's already got the bike and he chases down bad guys. He's only missing the Ghost Rider part! For Danny Ketch looming in the background, I would shoot for Michael Biehn (Terminator, Aliens). The Devil? Willem Dafoe, hands down.

If you are filming for the current Ghost Rider story that just wrapped up, for the crazed out of control head nurse of Zackiel's, I would seek to employ Beth Chapman wife of Dog the Bounty Hunter. She is a no-nonsense take charge trash talkin' and sometimes out of control woman (AND I LOVE HER!)

Let's get this project started!

Mike Dudley
Dickson TN

Holy crap, Mike, did you just manage to reference Dog the Bounty Hunter in a GHOST RIDER letters column? I'm no expert, but that's gotta deserve some kind of No-Prize, right?

Hey there Ghost Writers!

My name is Carlos Senna, I'm a journalist major from Brazil and a life-long fan of ol' Flamehead. And let me tell you: Congrats all around! Jason Aaron has hit this comic book like a bat out of Hell! His Ghostie is the best I've read since...Well, ever! And Tan Eng Huat was a great addition to the team. His style is a perfect match for the book.

I bought the "Hell Bent and Heaven Bound" arc and thought it was awesome, but I still wanted to know how far you guys were going to push it. And you opened issue #24 with a whole congregation gunned down by their priest inside a church. You did it! Without batting an eyelash! It was one of the most shocking, unapologetic, compelling displays of pure evil I've seen in a comic book in a long time. And the first scene of Blaze locked up in solitary confinement with "the meanest, toughest hombre in the East Texas prison system" was a real stroke of genius! The dialogue, Blaze's posture, the whole scene, it was all perfect.

That's MY Ghost Rider. The meanest, scariest beacon of light amongst the darkness of the world. Just never let up and, in the words of the Hulk, never stop making them pay! Can't wait to see what you guys do next.

Carlos Senna
Brazil

Thanks, Carlos. But rest assured...you ain't seen nothing yet. GHOST RIDER is only getting bigger and wilder from here on out. All of us here at Flamehead Central are committed to making this the craziest and most exciting book Marvel publishes. Thanks for joining us on the ride.

All right, so what happens next month? How about Blaze vs. Blackout. The debut of the all new Caretaker. And the set-up for the biggest arc in GHOST RIDER history. That's all. See ya there.

Jason Aaron
July 2008

"Mean as a rattler and twice as fast."



FOR THE FORMER THINGS

ARE PASSED AWAY

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